

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An optical network comprising:
  - first and second adjacent nodes;
  - a first fiber configured to carry information in a clockwise direction from the first node to the second node, the first fiber having wavelength capacity allocated to working and protection traffic, the working and protection wavelength capacities in the first fiber being respectively assigned to first and second sets of wavelengths; and
  - a second fiber configured to carry information in a counter-clockwise direction from the second node to the first node, the second fiber having wavelength capacity allocated to working and protection traffic, the working and protection wavelength capacities in the second fiber being respectively assigned to the second and first sets of wavelengths.